(c) Yes, Sir. 34 acres of land of the complex has been utilised for development of other Samadhis, such as Kisan Ghat, Shakti Sthal and Vir Bhoomi.

(d) and (e) The Government have taken up the matter with the Chairperson of the Rajghat Samadhi and would take whatever steps are necessary to improve the conditions in all its aspects.

Insanitary condition in Metropolitan Cities

1956. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its serious concern over the insanitary conditions in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a committee to the highly insanitary condition and inadequate measures for the disposal of solid wastes in the metropolitan cities; and

(c) if so, by when the committee would complete its study in this regard and suggest measures to save the cities from insanitary condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) yes, Sir. The Supreme Court expressed serious concern over the insanitary conditions in the metropolitan cities during the course of hearing of the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 888/96 filed by Ms. Almitra H. Patel against the Union of India, all State Governments and others regarding the deteriorating state of solid waste management in the country.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court dated 16.1.98, the Government had constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of the Commissioner, Calcutta Municipal Corporation to look into various aspects of solid waste managemnet in Class I cities in the country and to recommed measures for improving the situation. The Committee in its reports dated 25.3.99 had recommended several measures, including the constitution of a Technology Mission by the Government for improving solid waste management practices within five years. As per directions of the Supreme Court, the Committee's report was considered by the Government and it was decided to constitute a Technology Advisory Group under the chairmanship of the Advisor, Central Public Health & Environmental Engineering Organisation (CPHEEO) in the Ministry of Urban Development and consisting of

representatives from Ministries of Agriculture, Environment & Forests, Non Conventional Energy Sources, Finance, Planning Commission, Central Pollution Control Board, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh, Municipal Corporations of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Surat, etc. The Technology Advisory Group has been constituted on 18.8.99 for a period of five years with the objectives of collecting information on various proven technologies, provide technical assistance to urban local bodies, set benchmark on solid waste management for local bodies, channelise and make optimum use of funds earmarked for Solid Waste Management Proejcts, develop IEC (Information, Education & Communication) material for awareness programmes, human resource development and capacity building.

Schemes for development of Urban/Rural areas in Rajasthan and Orissa

1957. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Government's schemes for development of urban/rural areas in Rajasthan as wejll as Orissa;

(b) the names of towns and villages in Rajasthan and Orissa for which funds have been provided by the Central Government during the last three years till date, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) how much money has, so far, been spent out of the funds and how much remained unspent for each town/village and the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Recommendations of Committee of Technical Experts

1958. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will thde Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2156 given in the Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 1999 and state:

(a) the present status of the report/recommendations of the Committee of Technical Experts constituted by V.C., DDA in August, 1998 referred to in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2462 answered on December 21, 1998;

(b) whether the report is ready;